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**Inside this issue:**

Ward 5 News:

- Budget 1
- Tucson Rodeo

City News:

- Rio Nuevo 3
- Plan Tucson
- Ronstadt Transit Center

Ward 5

Announcements 5

Congratulations & 7  
Thank You

Important Numbers 8  
and

Contact Information

# City of Tucson

## Ward 5 Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 8

February 2013

### City of Tucson Budget

February may only have 28 days but a lot has happened during the second month of 2013. Our state marked its 101st birthday and Arizona and the Nation's marked "Black History Month," to name two of the many events and occurrences.

During this past month, many things have happened in our Ward and in the City of Tucson. Tucson's Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, reported in his annual State of the City address, that sales tax revenues have increased and the unemployment rate is lower.



The City of Tucson is beginning to turn the corner and is beginning to see the light at the end of the economic tunnel. Our wonderful city though, will be facing another potential economic situation with the federal sequestration budget cuts, which are scheduled to go into effect on Friday March 1st.

The potential federal sequestration budget cuts will affect the City of Tucson and its programs as well as the services provided, to what extent is unclear at this time but the Mayor and Council will be ready for this as it was in 2009, when it faces a budgeting short fall, the first issue I had to deal with as your Councilmember.

I was sworn in on Dec. 7, 2009. At the second Council Meeting on December 15, the City Manager informed the Mayor and the Council that the city faced a \$33.5 million budgetary shortfall. The Mayor and Council worked together to deal with that budget situation.

Over the next three years, the Mayor and Council dealt with three more budget deficits of \$44 million, \$55 million, and \$20 million respectively. This Mayor and Council made the decisions needed to overcome these budget challenges.

Now the Mayor and Council are dealing with its next City budget in the approaching fiscal year, effective on July 1. The initial discussion will begin next month and the final decision will be made in June.

I want to hear from you about your thoughts regarding this issue. Give my office a call at 791-4231 or email me at [ward5@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:ward5@tucsonaz.gov) subject line: Budget.

## Ward 5 News

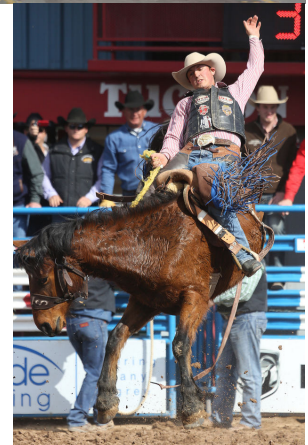
### Tucson Rodeo

La Fiesta de los Vaqueros was held February 16-24, 2013, completing its 88th season. The two major events this year consisted of the Tucson Rodeo, with six rodeo performances and the Tucson Rodeo Parade. Gabby Giffords and Mark Kelly were the 2013 Grand Marshals.

The Tucson Rodeo is one of the top 25 rodeos on the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) calendar. Annually, the Tucson Rodeo attracts the sport's current and former world champions, all vying for more than \$420,000 in prize money. Both Current and former PRCA world champions were featured in this year's Tucson Rodeo.

This year's Tucson Rodeo Parade featured western-themed floats and buggies, historic horse-drawn coaches, festive Mexican folk dancers, marching bands and outfitted riders. Billed as the world's longest non-motorized parade the spectacle drew an estimated 200,000 spectators.

La Fiesta de los Vaqueros is hosted by the nonprofit Tucson Rodeo and Tucson Rodeo Parade Committees. A portion of the rodeo proceeds benefits community groups including the University of Arizona Foundation scholarship fund and local Lion's and Rotary Clubs. Proceeds from the Tucson Rodeo benefit the University of Arizona scholarship fund, the Lion's Club, Rotary Clubs and 4-H Groups.



### Sunnyside Unified School District Liberty School

On August 28, 2012, the Governing Board approved Amity Foundation's submission of a grant application requesting funding for the adaptive reuse of the long time closed and boarded Liberty Elementary School site as a Veteran's Housing Facility.

An appraisal of the property was commissioned by SUSD to AXIS Real Estate Appraisers which concluded the fair market value of the buildings and approximately 5 acres at \$730,000.

Representatives from Amity and BFL Construction addressed the Sunnyside Unified School District Governing Board on Tuesday, January 8, 2013 to apprise the Board of the latest progress on the project and to request further District support.

In their address, they reaffirmed that the housing is for low income homeless veterans (women and men based on HUD requirements) and their children and spouses. It was additionally emphasized that the proposed housing was not a drug rehabilitation program and that Amity Foundation would provide for on-site management. The project will consist of 65 fully furnished 1, 2, and 3 bedroom apartments.

Amity, a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization since 1969, has provided housing and comprehensive services to individuals and families in need of critical help.

## City News

### Rio Nuevo Agreement

The City of Tucson and the Rio Nuevo District have agreed to settle all pending litigation and disputes and move forward with downtown revitalization projects approved by voters in 1999.

Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild and City Manager Richard Miranda signed the settlement agreement during a press conference spelling out each side's rights and responsibilities moving forward. "What this means for Tucson is that Rio Nuevo can proceed with its mission of providing a catalyst for downtown development, under the terms set forth by the legislature in its enabling legislation and subsequent revisions," said Rothschild.



The settlement agreement consists of the following:

1. The Rio Nuevo District will invest \$6 million for Tucson Convention Center maintenance, repairs and upgrades.
2. The Rio Nuevo District will assume the obligations of the Arena site if, after due diligence, they choose to do so.
3. The Rio Nuevo District will invest \$1.1 million in Mission Gardens.
4. The Rio Nuevo District will invest \$750,000 in downtown streetscapes. This is important because streetcar funds pay for work curb to curb, but do not pay for sidewalk or streetscape improvements.
5. The Rio Nuevo District will pay the City \$2.2 million in bond payments it owes.
6. The Rio Nuevo District will dismiss all lawsuits against the City.
7. Both parties agree to cooperate to facilitate the timely completion of independent financial and performance audits, required by state statute to be conducted every three years, with one coming due in 2013. These audits examine, among other things, whether the District is managing its resources in an economic, efficient manner and whether the objectives established by the Legislature are being met. They also include a description of the City's matching payments as required by statute.
8. The City of Tucson will assume the obligations of the Depot Garage, financed by the Rio Nuevo District, with payback occurring over 37 years.
9. The City of Tucson will transfer the property south of Cushing Street known as Heritage Park for completion of certain projects approved by the voters in Prop. 400.
10. The agreement confirms previous ownership of the following properties: Fire Central is owned by the City. The Presidio is owned by the City. The Court Avenue Duplex is owned by the Rio Nuevo District. The Church & Council Parking Lot is owned by the Rio Nuevo District.
11. The agreement sets forth a platform for development of a hotel and investment in the TCC.

By state law, the Rio Nuevo District cannot proceed with additional investment projects until it has submitted a Notice of Intent to Proceed with a hotel and a community center. With this agreement, the City accepts the District's investment of \$6 million in the TCC as meeting its notice requirement for a community center. The District still must meet its notice requirement for a hotel. Also, any Rio Nuevo development project over \$50,000 must be approved by Mayor and Council.



## City News

### Plan Tucson

Wednesday, February 27, 2013 marked the last of two public hearings before the City's Planning Commission discussing Plan Tucson.

Plan Tucson is the City's proposed replacement to the current General Plan. Arizona State Law requires municipalities to adopt a new or existing plan once every ten years. The General Plan is a long-term policy document intended to guide decisions affecting elements that shape the City, such as economic development, historic preservation, housing, water and energy resources and transportation and land use.



Upon review by the City's Planning Commission, Mayor and Council will have the opportunity to refer Plan Tucson to November's ballot for voter approval. If approved, Plan Tucson will become the City of Tucson's new General Plan.

General information, working documents, maps, and contact information can be found on the Plan Tucson website at [www.tucsonaz.gov/plantucson](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/plantucson).

### Ronstadt Transit Center

At the February 5th, 2013 Mayor and Council meeting, the mayor and council directed the city staff to create a "development vision" for the transit center that will maintain it as a transit hub while allowing for some mixed-use development. Once these plans are completed, the city will put the project out to competitive bid. This approach aims to attract development that will make downtown more vibrant without compromising transit.

The move protects the Ronstadt Transit Center from being transferred to the Dallas pension fund in turn for the scenic 284-parcel in Painted Hills



### Vote By Mail

In 2011, the Mayor and Council approved a motion brought forward by Councilmember Richard Fimbres to conduct the upcoming election for Mayor and three City Council seats as an all Vote by Mail election. The 2011 election showed that the vote by mail process was a success as it had the highest overall turnout in terms of numbers of votes, since the 1999 elections, over the 2009 election, which had hotly contested ballot measures and was conducted as a hybrid election, with polling places and vote by mail.

The vote by mail process saved Tucson taxpayers more than \$600,000 in terms of staff, renting of equipment and facilities for polling places. The 2011 election also showed an increase in turnout in all Wards, ranging from 7 percent to 36 percent which was in Ward 5.



## City News

The Tucson City Clerk and his staff are to be commended for making this process a success, in terms of notifying voters and ensuring the ballot counting process ran smoothly. The Tucson voters are to be commended for accepting and using the all vote-by-mail process, to the turn of increased turnout.

The all vote-by-mail process isn't for one candidate or partisan campaign it is about ensuring public participation in the process of selecting who will represent them as the Mayor and for the six City Council seats.

Ordinance 11046, allowing for a all vote-by-mail process was passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0 at the February 12, 2013 Mayor and Council meeting.

### **Tucson Passes Memorial Calling for Comprehensive Immigration Reform**

By a vote of 6 to 0, the Tucson Mayor and Council approved a Memorial calling for the U.S. Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

Tucson is one of the first cities to pass this Memorial to ask the 113th session of the U.S. Congress to act and pass a measure dealing with this important issue.

This agenda item was brought forward by Councilmember Richard Fimbres and Vice Mayor Regina Romero, who said the following in remarks delivered at the February 26 meeting of the Tucson Mayor and Council:

*Since 2011, this Mayor and Council took stands on the issues of immigration. When SB 1070 was signed into law, this Mayor and Council voted to legally challenge this measure? When the Mexican American Studies (MAS) program at TUSD was threatened, this Mayor and Council voted to support the MAS program and oppose measures in the Arizona Legislature. This Mayor and Council voted to show the world that Tucson was an "immigrant welcoming city." This Mayor and Council voted to support measures to have the Obama administration to fully staff the Mariposa Port of Entry in Nogales. When the Tomato Suspension Agreement was on the verge of being torn up, this Mayor and Council voted to go on record to support trade between the U.S. and Mexico and to help save the billion dollar industry and the 111,000 jobs in Tucson and Arizona which depends upon trade and good will with our friends across the border.*

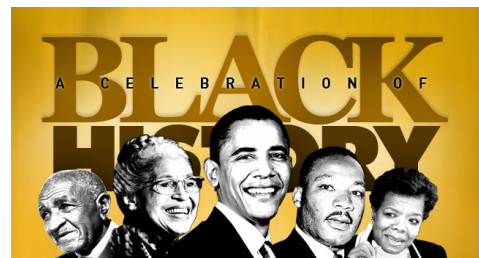
*With discussions on comprehensive immigration reform ongoing in the 113th Congress, Vice Mayor Romero and I placed this agenda item on for consideration to have Tucson's Mayor and Council speak out again, for comprehensive immigration reform. It is time for Congress to act and to come up with a comprehensive immigration reform package and with this Memorial, a town, 64 miles away from the Mexican border, a member of the U.S. Mexico Border Mayor's Association, will speak out to ask Congress to deal with this issue.*

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## Ward 5 Announcements

### **Black History Month**

February was Black History Month, but as we move forward throughout the year, let us not forget the struggles that African Americans have endured and contributions that African Americans have made to our great county. The leadership and achievements of the African American community has helped tremendously to make America a better place.



Black History Month was created in 1926 in the United States, when historian Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History announced the second week of February to be "Negro History Week". This week was chosen because it marked the birthday of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Woodson created the holiday with the hope that it eventually be eliminated when black history became fundamental to American history.

Negro History Week was met with enthusiastic response; it prompted the creation of black history clubs, an increase in interest among teachers, and interest from progressive whites. Negro History Week grew in popularity throughout the following decades, with mayors across the United States endorsing it as a holiday.

In 1976, the federal government acknowledged the expansion of Black History Week to Black History Month by the leaders of the Black United Students at Kent State University in February of 1969.

The first celebration of Black History Month occurred at Kent State in February of 1970. Six years later during the bicentennial, the expansion of Negro History Week to Black History Month was recognized by the U.S. government. Gerald Ford spoke in regards to this, urging Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

#### **Ward 5 Shred-A-Thon**

Ward 5 will be holding a shred-a-thon on Friday, March 22nd, from 8 am to 11 am, at the Ward 5 Council Office parking lot, 4300 South Park. For more information, please call the Ward 5 office at 791-4231.



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## **Congratulations and Thank You!**

#### **Buffalo Soldiers**

1866 was a watershed for African-American participation in the military. An act of Congress authorized the formation of six Black regiments, two cavalry (9th & 10th) and four infantry (38th, 39th, 40th, & 41st). The infantry regiments were later consolidated and redesignated as the 24th & 25th Infantry. These soldiers became known as the Buffalo Soldiers.



Over several decades, Buffalo Soldiers served in forts throughout the United States, including Arizona, California, Kansas, Louisiana, Montana, Nebraska, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Vermont and Virginia. They endured bitter hardships and often received inferior food, equipment and horses. However, they received the highest number (18) of Congressional Medals of Honor and had the lowest desertion rate of any Army regiment from 1867 to 1898. In addition to engaging in several skirmishes with Native Americans, they confronted outlaws, desperadoes, protected stage and railway lines, guarded frontiersmen against bandits and cattle rustlers. They rescued Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders during the Spanish American War.

## Congratulations and Thank You!

Native Americans bestowed the name Buffalo Soldiers upon the Black soldiers. Although, the reason for the name is uncertain, one theory suggests that the buffalo represented strength and courage, the same spirit they saw in Black soldiers. Another theory implies that Native Americans thought that Black man's hair resembled the mane of the buffalo. Black soldiers accepted the name Buffalo Soldiers as a badge of honor and the buffalo was made a part of the 10th Cavalry's regimental crest.

Although the Buffalo Soldiers' role in the settlement of the West proved to be invaluable to this nation, historical accounts of their deeds during that period are virtually invisible. However, the story was told on a postage stamp designed by the renowned artist Mort Kuntsler of Oyster Bay, New York.

The U.S. Postal Service saluted the Buffalo Soldiers with the dedication of a 29 cents commemorative stamp, at Fort Huachuca. The Buffalo Soldiers were first stationed at Fort Huachuca in the early 1890s with the arrival of the 24th Infantry and the 9th & 10th Cavalries.

Known for their ability to fight, the Buffalo Soldiers stationed at Fort Huachuca distinguished themselves in two of the more well known campaigns at the turn of the century. They were at the battle of San Juan Hill with Teddy Roosevelt and the campaign to capture Pancho Villa. Buffalo Soldiers continued to be stationed at Fort Huachuca until the end of WWII. A permanent display of the Buffalo Soldiers is located at the Fort Huachuca, Arizona Museum.



### Rosa Parks Birthday

Rosa Parks was born on February 4, 1913 in Tuskegee, Alabama. When her parents divorced, she moved to Montgomery where she had to deal with segregation and laws she did not agree with.

Rosa was affected greatly by segregation as a child; she despised being separated in everyday life. Although Rosa had to live with these rules and segregation as she grew, she managed to develop a sense of equality among the races. In fact, her mother stated about Rosa's beliefs, "...People should be judged by the respect that they have for themselves and others."



As an adult, Rosa married a barber, Raymond Parks. Rosa Parks was very active in the NAACP and the Montgomery Voters League. By her mid-life, Rosa became even more involved in the pursuit of racial justice. She participated in boycotts against various facilities endorsing segregation.

As well as being absorbed in her fights for equality, Rosa had various jobs and extensive education. She attended Alabama State University, and later held jobs as a housekeeper, and seamstress. After the incident on the bus Rosa was continually threatened and harassed; however, she would not give up her efforts towards equality.

Following her husband's death in 1977, Rosa founded an institute in order to help black youths, The Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development. Throughout the end of her life, she received many awards and recognitions for her contributions. Rosa died peacefully on October 24th, 2005 at the age of 92.

We thank Rosa Parks for her work and contributions to society which have helped to make America a more tolerant place.



## Frequently Used Phone Numbers

### **Emergency Services**

Tucson Police Department or Tucson Fire Department  
DIAL 911

### **Permits**

Planning and Development Services Department  
791-5550

### **Housing Assistance**

City of Tucson Community Services Department  
791-4739

### **Tucson Convention Center**

791-4101

### **Code Enforcement & Graffiti Removal**

792-CITY (2489)

### **Trash Pick Up & Environmental Services**

City of Tucson Environmental Services Department  
791-3171

### **Transportation & Street Maintenance**

Tucson Department of Transportation  
791-3154

### **Tucson Water Department**

Billing - 791-3242  
Public Information - 791-4331

### **ParkWise**

791-5071

### **Pima Animal Care**

243-5900



Community Food Bank

**Help those who are in need.  
Give to the Community Food Bank.  
For more information call: 520-622-0525**

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